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November 15, 2013

Existentialist Play Explores Unique Topics

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The Gardner-Webb University Theatre Department will present the existentialist play "No Exit" Nov. 20-23 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 24 at 2:30 p.m. in the Millennium Playhouse, located in the Communication Studies Hall.

Written by French playwright Jean-Paul Sartre, the play begins with three damned souls Cradeu, Ines, and Estelle brought to the same room in hell by a mysterious Valet. All three expected to be tortured for the rest of eternity but instead have found themselves in a plain furnished room. None of them will admit the reason for their damnation until Inez demands that they all stop lying to themselves and confess to their crimes. She refuses to believe that they all ended up in the room by accident and soon realizes that they have been placed together to make each other miserable for the rest of eternity. After spending time with each other, they crack and begin to attack and turn on one another with Cradeu coming to the conclusion that, "Hell is other people."

Dean of the School of Performing and Visual Arts Dr. Jim Thomas will direct the play, which will feature three GWU students; Clarissa Miller (Inez), Sydney Phillips (Estelle), and Chelsea McCoyle (the Valet).

"As a department we want our students to experience many different styles of plays and acting during their four years here," said Sue Fair, instructor of theatre arts and scenic designer and managing director for the play. "Existentialism and theatre in the round are just styles we think the students need exposure and I think the audience will be very surprised at what these young [actors] can do!"

There will be pre and post show discussions about playwright Jean-Paul Sartre and Existentialism. Pre-show discussion for shows Wednesday through Saturday will begin at 6:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The post show discussion will take place approximately 30 minutes after the show ends.

Admission is free for GWU students, faculty, staff and children under 12. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for senior adults and students of other schools. For more information or to reserve your tickets online visit, gardner-webb.edu/theatre-arts or call (704) 406-2366.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).